



Dear Colleagues,

I think you are all aware that we have for some time, in NMBVA UK, been concerned at the apparent fragmentation of what we have known as the NMBVAA. This mirrored a similar breakaway of three Branches of the UK organisation the last of which was literally weeks before I was co-opted to become Chairman of NMBVA (UK) Inc Europe. I now have an Association mandate having been elected as Chairman at our AGM on 23rd October.

It was at that AGM I said to members, and they fully supported, that we have a need to reengage with all our NMBVA colleagues in Australia and that the NMBVA National Executive Committee would, on behalf of the UK Membership, consider the prevailing situation at the time of my NEC meeting on 19th November.

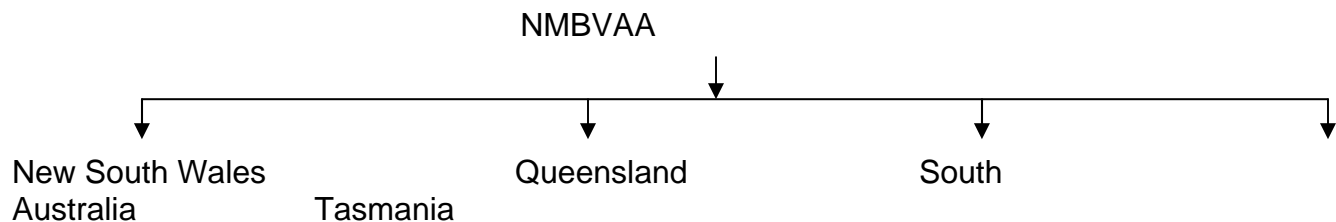
I have, as you know, had exchanges with both sides to this issue. The NEC have considered the pros and cons and the following is an extract of the Record of Decision from the 19 November 2010 meeting:

1. **NMBVAA and our future relationships.** The Chairman and International Liaison Officer briefed the NEC about exchanges with both parties - the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia (NMBVAA) on the one hand and the four breakaway Independent State Associations of Queensland; New South Wales; South Australia; and Tasmania on the other. After discussion it was agreed: that the law of Australia in relation to Independent States was very different to the laws of the United Kingdom and we should recognise that; that the National body had taken the view, albeit reluctantly, to 'live and let live'; that there was a wish by the UK membership to reengage with all M&BVA colleagues in Australia. The NEC did however question the use of the word 'National' by the Independent States as a misrepresentation and hoped for a future resolution of this but again recognised it as an issue for Australian Associations to resolve. The debate closed with the wish that at some time in the future the NMBVAA could be 'repaired' but agreed that our website and relationship should reconnect with both parties. It was also considered that there should probably be a ranking line diagram to avoid confusion and further discussion with Australia will be undertaken.

ACTION: Chairman, ILO and Webmaster.

You can see that it posed some questions for the NEC and the most difficult to overcome was the question of the relationship we have with our own three breakaway former Branches, which we do not recognise, why therefore should we be recognising similar breakaways in Australia?

The NEC came down in favour of reengagement with all parties on the grounds that, as we understand it, the laws in Australia, in relation to States is very different than in the UK in relation to regional areas. You will see though that we will be reengaging with all parties and to avoid confusion for our own membership we will show a hierarchy diagram with NMBVAA at the top and four Independent State Associations beneath. This is in no way intended to suggest subordination of any sort.



I am sending this message to Ian Davenport, President of the NMBVAA and to Ken McNeill JP, President of NMBVAA Tasmania who has been selected to act as the central focal point for the four Independent States.

Via this message I will now ask our webmaster to prepare and make a link to the NMBVAA www.nmbvaa.org.au

and a separate link that will encompass the four States:
<http://www.nmbvaaofincorporatedaustralianstates.org/>

I close by wishing all our colleagues in the Malaya & Borneo Veterans

Tex Pemberton .

Association in whatever organisation in Australia, a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Yours aye

Lieutenant Colonel Tex Pemberton OBE
Chairman
National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association (UK) Inc Europe.